

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-04
SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 /083 W
-----037815 301046Z /11/46

O R 261200Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6442

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2970

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 7. CORRECTED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO VERDICT - PART III

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 2744, B) ISLAMABAD 2842, C) STATE 077096

1. BHUTTO APPEAL: LAWYERS REPRESENTING FORMER PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO FILED AN APPEAL ON HIS BEHALF ON MARCH 25 AGAINST
THE VERDICT OF THE LAHORE HIGH COURT IN THE MOHAMMED KHAN
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MURDER CASE. THE OTHER FOUR CONVICTED HAD ALREAD APPEALED
(REFTEL A) BUT ALL FIVE APPEALS WILL BE TAKEN UP JOINTLY,
REPORTS PAK TIMES 26 MARCH.

2. BHUTTO IN PARTICULAR SEEMS DETERMINED TO SQUEEZE EVERY
POSSIBLE BIT OF DRAMA FROM THE APPEALS PROCESS. HIS APPEAL
WAS FILED ON THE LAST POSSIBLE DAY, AND HIS LAWYER STATED

THAT FORMER PRIMIN AGREED TO FILE ONLY AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF
"PERSUASION."

3. PROMINENTLY PLACED ON FRONT PAGE OF 26 MARCH PAK TIMES
WAS AN ARTICLE QUOTING PNA CHIEF MAHMUD CRITICIZING FOREIGN
APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY AND A PLEA AGAINST CLEMENCY FROM THE
WIDOW OF MOHAMMED KHAN. HER PLEA IS A MASTERPIECE OF
EMOTIONAL APPEAL, INTER ALIA QUOTING THE PROPHET AND ASKING,
"SHALL WE CONDONE HIM WHOM GOD AND PROPHET EXCOMMUNICATE?"
AMCONSUL LAHORE REPORTS RECEIPT OF A PETITION FROM TWO OF
MOHAMMED KHAN'S SONS ON BEHALF OF THEIR MOTHER, THE WIDOW
BEGUM KHAN, EXHORTING EMBASSIES IN ISLAMABAD AND HEADS OF
STATE NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE MATTER AND OTHERWISE PARALLELING
THE PAK TIMES ACCOUNT. ONE OF THE SONS MADE THE SPECIAL
POINT THAT APPEALS NOW FOR CLEMENCY MAY PREJUDICE THE CASE
BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO DATE SET FOR THE COURT TO HEAR THE
APPEAL. AS WE UNDERSTAND PAKISTAN LAW, THE COURT HAS NO
CHOICE BUT TO HEAR THE APPEAL.

5. IN A LETTER DATED MARCH 24, ADDRESSED TO THE SUPERINTENDENT,
KOT LAKHPAT JAIL WHERE FORMER PRIMIN BHUTTO IS CONFINED,
BEGUM BHUTTO ALLEGED THAT HIGH AUTHORITIES IN RAWALPINDI
PLAN TO ELIMINATE HER HUSBAND DURING THE NEXT 48 HOURS OR
SO BY POISON OR SOME OTHER MEANS. SHE REQUESTED THE
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SUPERINTENDENT TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION TO PREVENT
ANY HARM TO BHUTTO.

6. LETTER, WHICH AMCONSUL LAHORE RECEIVED FROM VOA
CORRESPONDENT, WAS PUBLISHED ON MARCH 26 IN PRO-PPP
NEWSPAPERS HAYAT AND MUSAWAAT (KARACHI EDITION). ALTHOUGH
BEGUM BHUTTO'S CONCERN MAY BE GENUINE, LETTER LOOKS MORE
LIKE A SENSATIONAL BID TO CRITICIZE ZIA AND GARNER POPULAR
SUPPORT.

7. LAW AND ORDER: THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN PAKISTAN
REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET OVER THE LONG THREE-DAY WEEKEND,
ALTHOUGH TWO DOZEN STUDENTS IN THE PESHAWAR AREA WERE
REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING A DEMONSTRATION,
SEVERAL OTHERS WERE FRUSTRATED BY POLICE IN THE EFFORT TO
FIRE A BUS, AND THE SINDHI LANGUAGE PRESS IN KARACHI REPORTS
SMALL BUT WIDESPREAD ACTS OF PROTEST AND ADDITIONAL ARRESTS
THROUGHOUT SIND PROVINCE. HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780324/aaaaatzf.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17cd12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17cd12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
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